



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 8

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*Memorandum*

TO: Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

DATE: May 28, 2009

FR: Ursula Vogler, EDAC Staff Liaison

RE: Staff Liaison Report

Bay Bridge Closure

The Bay Bridge will be closed in both directions over the 2009 Labor Day weekend, allowing crews to perform an operation critical to the construction of the bridge's new East Span. The maneuver will shift all bridge traffic to a detour viaduct currently under construction south of the existing bridge on Yerba Buena Island. After the holiday weekend, workers can then begin demolishing that section of the original bridge, and begin building a new, permanent connector from the tunnel east to the landmark self-anchored suspension (SAS) section of the new East Span. When the bridge reopens on the morning of Tuesday, September 8, 2009, traffic will jog slightly on to the detour bridge, which will then link the current East Span to the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel.

MTC is working with Caltrans and other transportation agencies to ensure mobility options for transbay travelers. BART will run all-night service to select stations over Labor Day weekend, and extra vessels will be deployed to expand ferry service on select routes. There will be no bus service across the Bay Bridge. Travelers who must drive between San Francisco and the East Bay are advised to use the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, or the Richmond-San Rafael and Golden Gate bridges. Caltrans is deploying extra toll takers for the weekend. As always, check 511.org for updates.

Congestion Report

Traffic congestion on Bay Area freeways fell last year for the first time since 2003, according to the latest congestion-monitoring data released by MTC and Caltrans District 4. The daily number of vehicle hours of delay

due to congestion in the nine-county region dropped 12 percent in 2008. Among the “Top 10” list of congestion hot spots for 2008 was the morning commute along westbound Interstate 80 to the Bay Bridge toll plaza, which retained its longtime hold on the top spot with an average 7,800 daily vehicle hours of delay. Go to: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/congestion> for more detail.

### Follow-up to DBE Presentation

In the May EDAC meeting, MTC staff member Teri Green made a presentation on updates to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. During the presentation, she outlined who may apply for DBE status, including persons with disabilities. EDAC members requested that MTC staff provide additional information on how disabled persons can qualify for certification as a DBE, which is provided below.

A person who is "disabled" may apply to the DBE program by demonstrating social and economic disadvantage on a case-by-case basis. The DBE regulations provide the following guidance regarding individual determinations of disadvantage:

- “At least one objective distinguishing feature that has contributed to social disadvantage, such as race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, long-term residence in an environment isolated from the mainstream of American society, or other similar causes not common to individuals who are not socially disadvantaged;
- Personal experiences of substantial and chronic social disadvantage in American society, not in other countries; and
- Negative impact on entry into or advancement in the business world because of the disadvantage....[R]ecipients will consider education, employment and business history, where applicable, to see if the totality of circumstances shows disadvantage in entering into or advancing in the business world.”

In addition, DOT states, “the Department notes that people with disabilities have disproportionately low incomes and high rates of unemployment.

Many physical and attitudinal barriers remain to their full participation in education, employment, and business opportunities available to the general public. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in recognition of the discrimination faced by people with disabilities. It is plausible that many individuals with disabilities -- especially persons with severe disabilities (e.g., significant mobility, vision, or hearing impairments) -- may be socially and economically disadvantaged.”

Please contact me if you have additional questions.